(b) and (c) New Divisions are set up keeping in view factors liek size, work load, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/ administrative requirements, etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. The proposal for creation of a new railway division at Salem when seen in the light of these considerations, is not found to be operationally feasible.

Availing loans by the Railways

742. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Observer dated 12th November, 1998 under the caption "proposed scrapping of commitment charges for risk cover on loans; Railway's development activities may be affected";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed in this regard; and

(d) the present status of fresh initiatives taken by the Railways to avail of loans from the World Bank and other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The methodology and implications of adoption of disintermediation policy in respect of external loans for the Railway sector are under consideration of the Government. No final decision in this regard has been taken.

(d) The Rail sector Improvement Project is under discussion with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A World Bank Loan for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II (MUTP-II) is also under consideration.

पुष्कर को रेल मार्ग द्वारा जोड़ना

743. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या करोड़ों हिन्दुओं के तीर्थ स्थल पुष्कर को रेल मार्ग से जोड़ने की कोई योजना का सर्वेक्षण कार्य शुरू कराया गया है; यदि हां, तो कब; और

(ख) क्या सरकार को तीर्थ स्थल पुष्कर को रेल मार्ग से जोड़ने की आवश्यकता की जानकारी है; यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा किए गए प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) सर्वेक्षण का कार्य शुरू किया गया है। सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट उपलब्ध होने के बाद ही इस परियोजना पर आगे विचार करना संभव होगा।

दौराई से मदार रेलवे स्टेशन तक के रेल मार्ग में पड़ने वाले समतल पारपथ

744. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दौराई से मदार रेलवे स्टेशन वाया अजमेर जंक्शन रेलवे लाइन पर पड़ने वाले समतल पारपथों की संख्या कितनी है और इन दो स्टेशनों के बीच की दूरी कितनी है; और

(ख) क्या रेलवे ने गत पचास वर्षों में अजमेर में वाहन चलने की क्षमता वाला कोई उपरि पुल बनाया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) 16 अदद। दुरई से मदार के बीच दूरी 13.31 कि०मी० है।

(ख) जी नहीं। रेलवे द्वारा उपरि सड़क पुलों का निर्माण तब किया जाता है जब लागत में भागीदारी के आधार पर या निक्षेप शर्तों पर राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रस्ताव प्रायोजित किये जाते हैं। पिछले 50 वर्षों के दौरान अजमेर में किसी उपरि सड़क पुल का निर्माण नहीं किया गया है। अजमेर सिटी में किसी उपरि सड़क पुल के निर्माण के लिए राज्य सरकार द्वारा ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं चलाया गया है।

Membership of Elite International Railway Union by the Indian Railways

745. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways have become member of the 'Elite' International Railway Union; if so, what steps the Railways are taking to serve the common man comparatively in a better, safer and cheaper way; and

(b) how many new trains are being introduced for the Janata traveller, as compared to Rajdhanis, Shatabdis etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways are a member of the International Union of Railways since 1957. Its French name is "Union Internationale des chemins de fer." However this is an Association of Railways having 138 members; and it cannot be described as 'Elite.' The steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the railways to make the journey of passengers better, safer and cheaper are as under:

(i) Bed rolls are now supplied to all the passengers travelling in AC 3 tier coaches without realising any charge in the train;

(ii) Provision of cushioned berths in sleeper class coaches;

(iii) Supply of water pouches with the meal to the passengers;

(iv) Provision of Interactive Voice Response System;

(v) Improvement of passenger Information system;

(vi) Provision of signage etc. at stations;

(vii) Introduction of computerised reservation system at more and more cities;

(viii) Introduction of Tatkal reservation system in trains to provide reservation at short notice;

(ix) Introduction of UIC vestibules to facilitate inter-coach access to passengers on run;

(x) PVC flooring inside coaches and stainless steel inlays in the toilets of all types of coaches;

(xi) Regular cleaning of water tanks provided in coaches;

(xii) Periodic intensive cleaning of coaches;

(xiii) Rake renovation particularly of passenger trains.

(b) During the current year 26 pairs of Express trains are being introduced. Out of these only 2 pairs of weekly trains are of Rajdhani type. All the remaining trains are meant for serving the common traveller.

Expansion of Calcutta Metro System

746. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided that expansion of the Calcutta Metro System will be feasible only if Government of West Bengal contributes two-thirds of the investment cost;

(b) whether this decision implies formal concurrence with the view that railway development in the country is the joint responsibility of the Union and State Government; and

(c) whether under the circumstances , Government propose to enact an amendment to the constitution transferring 'Railways' from the Union List of the Sixth Schedule to the Concurrent List?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of serious constraint of funds in the Railway Plan for works to cater for long distance passenger and freight traffic, Railways have been requesting the State Governments to participate in the funding of the urban rail transport projects as the primary beneficiary of the project is the State/City.

(c) No, Sir.

Notification on reservation orders in Railway Services

747. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of notifications to which reservation orders do not apply (exemption from reservation orders) in the Railway services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF